

July 17, 2010

ATTN: Committee on Ways & Means

TITLE OF HEARING: **SOCIAL SECURITY AT 75 YEARS**

SUBJECT: Unfairness of Government Pension Offset & Windfall Elimination Provision **OR PUNISH working taxpayers, when they retire, who chose to become PUBLIC SERVANTS.**

I will receive \$617.54 net (less insurance) from Ohio PERS and \$355 Social Security,(per last letter from SS), or \$969 as my take home total. This for the rest of my life. Could you live on less than \$1,000 a month or \$12,000 per year?

I worked short term full and part-time jobs, while we raised our children and for Campbell Soup for 9+ years, but lost this job due to NAFTA. Re-trained for office work and worked for Shelby County Job & Family Services for 12+ years till I was laid-off last August, 2009 at the age of 63.

Had to retire, as I lost my unemployment benefits and couldn't afford COBRA insurance, but was eligible for insurance through Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. Unemployment was over 12% in our county and no one was hiring.

I knew my Social Security was going to be reduced, due to working under both systems and because I had retired early. But I still had paid in to SS during all the previous jobs. Spouses who never worked or are illegal aliens are entitled to more than I am. Does this make sense?

What is really unfair is that I am **not** eligible to receive my husband's SS benefit amount when he dies, just because the job that I found was as a Public Servant. So I pray he lives as long as I do, so I don't have to sell my house and/or go on Public Food (Stamps) Assistance.

I have done my best be a good person, good worker, good citizen, gladly paid my taxes, but am being damaged due to this UNFAIR PROVISION IN THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.

If you can allow benefits for those who have never been a legal citizen or have never contributed to the SS Fund, why can't you repeal the WINDFALL PROVISION and take care of those who have taken care of the less fortunate.

PLEASE PASS HB 235 AND S 484. CONGRESSMEN GET FULL BENEFITS IF THEY ARE IN CONGRESS FOR ONE (1) TERM ONLY. Please give fair SS benefits to the many who have given many years of committed service to their communities and country.

Sincerely, Barbara A. Cole
Ohio